



AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL POLICY ASSOCIATION

Dec 19 2025

ASPA End of Year Newsletter

Hello ASPA members,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the ASPA newsletter! From 2026, we will be sending these newsletters to you on a quarterly basis to keep you updated on new events, opportunities and research insights across the social policy landscape.

It has been great to connect with so many of you this year and we look forward to keeping the conversations going in the year ahead.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season.

Australian Social Policy Association

ASPA Updates: Annual General Meeting and 2026 Management Committee

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Australian Social Policy Association was held on Friday 21 November 2025. It was a great opportunity for members to hear about the association's activities over the past year.

At the AGM, the 2026 Management Committee were announced - Sue Regan (President), Katherine Curchin (Vice President), Gaby Ramia (Secretary), Bingqin Li, Bruce Bradbury, Gerry Redmond, and Michelle Peterie.

We would like to acknowledge Ben Edwards and Kelly Hand, who stood down from the committee, for their significant contributions to the association. Thank you!



Research insights from the Australian Journal of Social Issues

Volume 60, Issue 4

The latest edition of the Australian Journal of Social Issues has just been released. This edition covers a breadth of exciting new research, from fly-in-fly-out workers, to care work, to women in sport.

Here is a small snapshot of new research insights covered in this latest edition:

- [Marshall et al](#) find that women in power in sport continue to face harassment, and younger women aged 18–29 reported higher incidences of gender harassment than all other age groups.
- [Nicholas et al](#)'s scoping review of non-binary research in "Australian" social sciences identifies key themes including negative health impacts, resilience, coping strategies and solidarity, and the collective creation of community, identity and safe spaces for affirmation.
- [Lack et al](#) found that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander NDIS participants who are deaf or hard of hearing have diverse support needs that span socio-cultural, communication, health and disability domains.

Access the full edition [here](#).



Join us at The University of Queensland (Brisbane) for the 2026 Australian Social Policy Conference!

The 2026 Australian Social Policy Conference (ASPC2026), the flagship event of the Australian Social Policy Association, will be held at The University of Queensland (Meeanjin/Brisbane) from 30 September — 2 October 2026, bringing together leading researchers, policymakers, and advocates to address pressing social, environmental, and economic challenges. The ASPC2026 conference theme is *'Positive futures: towards social, environmental, and economic justice'*. **For more information, including our call for papers, please see our website: www.aspc2026.com and join our mailing list [here](#).**

LinkedIn group for HDR students

Calling all HDR students!

We have created a community on LinkedIn for you to share ideas, connect with others, and ask your burning questions. We hope that this can be a collaborative and supportive space for you as you navigate your HDR journey.



If you are an ASPA member who is currently enrolled in a HDR program and would like to join the conversation in our LinkedIn community, send us an email at hello@aspa.org.au.

Upcoming opportunities

- The University of Melbourne are currently hiring for two Level B public policy positions. One is an [ongoing role](#) (with work rights being sponsored, closes **6 Jan 2026**), and the other a [30-month fixed term](#) (Australian work rights needed, closes **2 Jan 2026**). Both jobs will be teaching into the [MPPM program](#).
- The Australian Institute of Family Studies are holding their annual conference from 9-11 September 2026 in Melbourne, Australia. Call for abstracts open in January and close on **27 February 2026**. More detail can be found here: <https://aifs.gov.au/conference>.
- The University of Birmingham are hosting the 2026 Conference of the International Sociological Association Research Committee 19 (RC19) from 2-4 September 2026. The theme for 2026 is *Social Policy and Transnationalism: Theory, method, politics, policy and practice*. The call for abstracts closes on **15 January 2026**. Further details here: <https://www.rc19.org/event/rc19-annual-conference>.
- The 2026 Annual Conference of the European Consortium for Sociological Research is being held at Trinity College, Dublin from 15-17 June 2026. The theme is *Inequality by Design? Social Divides in an Age of Uncertainty*, and the call for abstracts closes on **11 January 2026** <https://www.ecsr2026.net/>.
- Calls from stream leaders for the 24th ESPANet Annual Conference close on **16 January 2026**. ESPANet invites streams from major fields in social policy, key issues/debates on social policy and the welfare state, and innovative topics and on relevant methodological approaches within social policy. The conference is being held in Lisbon, Portugal from August 26-28 2026. Further information is available here: <https://espanet.org/24th-espanet-annual-conference-call-for-streams/>.

Do you have something that you would like to promote?

Send us an email at hello@aspa.org.au! We would love to share your next event or job opportunity with our social policy community.



Want to stay updated? [Connect with us on LinkedIn!](#)